

Message Text

SECRET

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15

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-11 ISO-00 SAM-01 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02

SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 L-03 H-02 PRS-01

ARA-06 /076 W

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R 051627Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3200

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMCONSUL CAPETOWN

AMCONSUL KADUNA

S E C R E T LAGOS 1514

CAPE TOWN FOR AMEMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PDEV, PGOV, AO, NI, US

SUBJECT: UNITA WILLING TO ENTER INTO COALITION GOVERNMENT UNDER

MPLA LEADERSHIP AND ASKS NIGERIANS INTERCEDE ON

ITS BEHALF WITH NETO

1. UK DEPUTY HIGH COMMISSIONER CALLED ON DCM TODAY TO INFORM
HIM THAT UNITA REPRESENTATIVES HAD CONTACTED BRITISH OFFICIALS

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IN LONDON EARLIER THIS WEEK TO EXPRESS WILLINGNESS ENTER INTO

COALITION GOVERNMENT IN ANGOLA UNDER
MPLA LEADERSHIP.

2. UNITA ASKED HMG CONTACT NIGERINAS TO SEEK LATTER'S
ASSISTANCE IN GETTING MPLA AND NETO TO AGREE TO A MEETING IN
LUSAKA TO DISCUSS THE PROPOSAL. UNITA BELIEVES NIGERIANS MIGHT
BE ABLE INFLUENCE NETO WHO APPARENTLY IS BEING UNCOMPROMISING
IN HIS DRIVE FOR TOTAL VICTORY.

3. ACCORDING BRITISH HERE, UNITA HOPEFUL THAT ONCE COALITION
GOVERNMENT IS IN BEING THAT ANGOLANS WILL BE ABLE EASE SOVIETS
AND CUBANS OUT OF COUNTRY.

4. COMMENT: TANZANIAN FOMIN'S VISIT HERE (LAGOS 1136), NYERERE'S
RECENT EXPRESSIONS OF SUPPORT FOR COALITION GOVERNMENT (DAR ES SALAAM
407 NOFORN AND 413) AND INDICATIONS NIGERIANS MAY BE MOVING THAT
DIRECTION (LAGOS 1496) MAY INDICATE THAT MPLA SUPPORTERS BECOMING
CONCERNED AT SOVIET/CUBAN PRESENCE AND ARE SEEKING QUICK END TO
STRIFE. IN PASSING UNITA MESSAGE TO NIGERIANS HERE, BRITISH GOT
IMPRESSION THAT ONE OF PRIMARY PURPOSES OBASANJO'S TRIP
TO LUANDA (LAGOS 1497) IS TO URGE NETO TO ACCEPT COALITION GOVERN-
MENT. IDEA OF COALITION GOVERNMENT WOULD BE MORE PALATABLE TO
NIGERIANS NOW THAT THE UNWANTED FNLA APPEARS TO BE OUT OF
EQUATION FOR ALL INTENTS AND PURPOSES. THESE REPORTS, STRAWS IN
THE WIND THOUGH THEY MAY BE, TAKEN TOGETHER
WITH STORIES THAT ZAIRE MAY BE HEDGING ITS
BETS BY MOVING TO ESTABLISH A BASIS FOR SOME RELATIONSHIP WITH
AN ANGOLA LED BY THE MPLA, MAY PRESAGE A MOVE BY SOME INFLUENTIAL
AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS TO SEEK A SOLUTION TO THE ANGOLAN CIVIL WAR
WHICH LEAVES MPLA IN CONTROL WITH UNITA AS JUNIOR PARTNER AND
WHICH AIMS AT ENDING THE SOVIET AND CUBAN PRESENCE.
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